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FTA news

FOOD TOBACCO AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA—CIO

Vol. VI, No. 10 May 15, 1946 68 Price 5 Cents

F... Campbell's Soup plants in Camden and Chicago look over the shoulders of Veronica ... secretary of Local 194 and Anthony Valentino, business agent of Local 80, as they re... agreement clinching a straight 15c an hour wage award to 9,000 FTA members. This award, p... cents won earlier in the spring, brings the total up to 18c. And still the AFL boasts about getting raises of 10c and less for cannery workers.

Produce Food Not Politics—FTA

(See text, page 4, 5)

Food today is being used by the U. S., Britain and Canada as a political weapon to uphold reactionary regimes abroad and to suppress democratic governments, President Henderson charged this week in a letter sent to President Truman.

This fact, plus the "utter failure of the voluntary food control program to meet the needs of the peoples of Europe, Africa and Asia" demands a "radical change in the food policies of all the surplus countries, starting with our own," Henderson said.

The Combined Food Board, which is dominated by the U.S., Britain and Canada and which now controls all world food supplies as it did during the war ... countries whose governments it does not approve and an undue friendliness to those with reactionary regimes imposed from without," he added.

This has extended to the operations of UNRRA, and is proved by the failure of UNRRA and the Board to "supply even the barest crisis needs of such countries as Poland, Yugoslavia, France and others of similar democratic trend."

It is time, Henderson told Truman, that we "shift the emphasis from appeals to consumers" and time that we "recognize the fact that food policy is a part of foreign policy, and to face the need for changes in both.

"What is needed on the part of the U.S. and all countries where food is available is a realization that planned incentives to production, just and speedy distribution of world supplies, and real controls over consumption are imperative if we are to halt death and disease now looming on a massive scale unknown in human history."

Citing a program to fill world food needs, Henderson said we must:

1. Abolish the Combined Food Board in favor of a World Food Board, with places on it for the Soviet Union "and other democratic and friendly countries now excluded.

2. Call a World Food Conference at once to work out minimum food needs and set production and supply goals, with distribution supervised by the new board.

3. Put members of the World Federation of Trade Unions on ... against discrimination and other political misuse of food."

Turning to a domestic program for this country, Henderson urged that we "provide the farmers and food processors with the same opportunities and incentives to produce that we provided for the manufacture of tanks, planes, ships and guns during hostilities."

This means a special effort to involve family size farms in all-out production, plus an end to present discriminations against food processing workers.

These discriminations — especially in application of the Wagner act, Social Security, Wage Hour and similar laws—are a big factor in sub-standards conditions for many thousands of workers, he said, and "sub-standard workers cannot produce at top level."

Win $4,000,000 At Campbell Soup

Straight across the board wage increases of 15c an hour, with retroactive pay, will add $4,000,000 to the take-home of 9,000 Campbell's Soup workers in Camden, N.J. and Chicago.

The increases came after weeks of joint negotiations by Local 194, Chicago and Local 80, Camden, which began last February. The retroactive clause will pay 10c of the increase back to March 24, the remaining five cents back to September 27, 1945.

Negotiations were conducted by the two locals, which acted jointly in presenting their demands and in rejecting inadequate company offers. This is the first time in the labor relations history of the company that the locals involved set up a joint committee.

Meeting together with management in February, the two ... of a 15c per hour increase, which they flatly rejected. Agreement was made to arbitrate, with the understanding that Local 80 would submit its case first with Local 194 supporting.

Company Cites AFL

During the arbitration sessions, in which FTA Vice-President Lewis Bentzley acted for the union, Charles Wolfe for the company and Maxwell Copelof as chairman, the company tried to argue that AFL unions were "setting the pattern for the cannery industry."

This AFL "pattern," it turned out, was to settle for raises of between eight and 10c an hour —around half of what CIO and FTA have been setting as standard.

The CIO sets its own standards and will not be guided by sell-out agreements foisted by the AFL on other workers, the negotiating committee told the management. Further, they said ... many increases well over 10c in the Chicago, Camden and other regions.

The company then tried to make the point that Campbell wages were "much higher" already than those of many other cannery workers in the U. S.

The committee knocked this one down easily by pointing out that FTA's aim in organizing cannery workers is not to let their wages drop down to the levels of unorganized plants, but to set high levels for organized workers and bring the others up.

When the proposed arbitration award was made, one final splitting tactic was tried—the tactic of dividing the men and women workers by offering the men 15c and the women 12.5c. Bentzley refused to sign the proposal, and the joint committee flatly refused to accept it.

The committee then told the company — 15c straight across the board, with both locals joining in the demand and making it clear that they would take what ... action was necessary to enforce it.

Within 24 hours the company asked for a new meeting with the joint committee, and on May 1—May Day—the 15c offer was made without strings or conditions for all year-round workers. Twelve and a half cents went to seasonal workers.

Campbell's Soup, one of the biggest canning firms in the world, had signed with FTA-CIO for 9,000 organized workers.

Local 92 Wins 'Highest Raise'

Indianapolis—Local 92 scored the highest wage increase in any starch plant in the nation when it won a 15c an hour raise, retroactive to November 1, 1945, at the National Starch Co., recently. Back pay checks ranging from $200 to $300 apiece will soon be in the workers' pockets.

Union shop, check-off of dues and a no-discrimination clause are some of the principle features of the contract. Employees will receive vacations with pay of two weeks for five years and one week for more than one year. Time-and-a-half is paid for work in excess of 40 hours a week, Saturdays and holidays, with double-time pay for the seventh consecutive day of work.

Other Gains

Other wage adjustments include an additional half cent raise to be effective November 1, 1946; a four cents an hour differential for the first night shift and six cents an hour each for the second and third night shifts, as well as six hours call-in pay.

The new contract, which extends to March, 1947, was signed for the International by Secy-Treas. Harold J. Lane.

Negotiations were led by Local 92 Pres. Owen Young and Kenneth Hirschy, FTA Field Representative.

Play ball for CIO or for the company? It took members of Local 306, Phoenix, Ariz., less than five minutes to decide "we play for ourselves" when veteran Arthur (Buddy) Fulee put the question. Management had offered to sponsor a team on condition the uniforms carry only the company's name, refusing to allow FTA to appear. Though Local 306 has only 40 year-round members, the team is given an even chance to win the state semi-pro title. Members are: (back) Fulee, 1st base and manager; Chester Scott, pitcher; James (Jitterbug) Howell, 3rd base; Otto Moore, left field and pitcher; Matthew Brown, shortstop. (Front) Theodore William, center field; Floyd Harris, right field and president of 306; Mac Hawkins, catcher; George Kimball, pitcher and Thomas Bracken, 2nd base. Not shown are Leon Westbrook, 1st base; Virgil Hutchison, starting pitcher; W. K. (Speedy) Wood, outfield; Bitt Garland, pitcher and Floyd Calvin, catcher. (Picture story by Charles Law.)

FROM WASHINGTON

Warning To All FTA

By ELIZABETH SASUSLY, Washington Representative

This column is a warning.

Within the next week FTA will face a fight in Congress which, if lost, would be a catastrophe for our union.

Food bosses, through their representatives in Congress are again proposing to put a rider (amendment) on the National Labor Relations Board Appropriation which would take the protection of the Wagner Act from 750,000 workers under our jurisdiction. This is accomplished by prohibiting the use of NLRB funds in cases involving agricultural workers as that term is defined in the Social Security Act.

Last year the same kind of rider sponsored by Rep. Lea of California was put on the War Labor Board appropriation by a vote of 203 to 103. As it turned out, the war ended, the WLB, a temporary wartime agency, went out of existence, and we were free to strike again.

Possibly because of this, the seriousness of what happened was not apparent to our membership. But Congress learned the lesson quickly. An amendment prohibiting the NLRB from handling cases involving "agricultural workers" as defined in the Social Security act was put on the Case anti-labor bill before it passed the House.

However, the Case bill is so bad that it stands a good chance of being vetoed, and our opponents are taking no chances. They are going to try to put this rider on the NLRB appropriation because they know it is more difficult to secure a veto of a bill which gives an important government agency its funds for the next year.

If the rider is passed, this is what will happen:

There will be no more elections among the 225,000 workers in the fruit and vegetable packingshed industry which has been one of FTA's main organizational concentrations. A half million workers in other processing industries will also be excluded from having NLRB elections.

In these industries employers will be free to fire workers for union activity, set up company unions and refuse to bargain with FTA even if we have had contracts for years. We will not be able to go to the NLRB about any of these things.

These hundreds of thousands of workers will be reduced to the same status before the law that agricultural workers now have.

They would be set apart from all other industrial workers and for them the clock would be turned back to the time when labor had not implemented its right to organize and engage in collective bargaining by laws but was forced in every instance to slug it out on the picket line.

Our union is not in a situation where we can decide to engage in political action "if," "when" and "maybe." We are being attacked politically because of the organizational progress we have made in industries which are the sacred cows of Congress and the industrialists who at present control most of the members of Congress.

When the steel or the mining industry want special legislation to serve their interests they are forced to come out and say so. When the food processing industries want special exemptions and legislation, they hide behind a smokescreen with a big label on it saying "poor little farmers."

They have done this to get out from under social security legislation, from big hunks of the Wage-Hour Act and all the time they have been gunning for what they are going after now—the Wagner Act. The social security definition of "agricultural" labor was passed with the specific purpose of easing the same definition into the Wagner Act.

The food industry has done the same thing in their drive to abolish price control. You never see a representative of the industry coming out honestly and calling for price increases. They dress up as the "farm bloc" and then they start howling.

This fake idea is what the industry bosses are working to preserve and extend. To get rid of unions in their plants, they are asking Congress to call the workers in their plants agricultural workers.

Every local and every member of FTA must be mobilized and ready to move into this fight. You should:

1) Discuss this rider and what it means in your next executive board and local meeting.

2) Contact your city and state CIO councils, tell them what the situation is; also church groups, women's organizations and other non-labor groups and tell them.

3) Be ready to IMMEDIATELY let loose a flood of wires and phone calls to your Congressmen and mobilize the CIO and other forces in your area when you are informed by the Washington or National office that the time for action has come. We want these wires timed for when they can do the most good.

The outcome of this fight can mean life or death for FTA!

V-Day Plus 365

This month and this week mark one full year after V-E Day, the day when Nazi Germany's military might was declared smashed.

The five year war to break the grip of the strongest fascist bid for world power came to an end one year ago, and the world, saddened by the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt, turned to the tasks of peace. One year ago . . .

What has happened in that year? Have we won peace? Are the four freedoms practiced? Have we achieved security?

Not even the most optimistic can say we have achieved all the things we fought for—not even the blueberry pie the newspaper ads used to say was our war aim.

The United Nations is used as a means for promoting American and British power politics. Soviet-baiting replaces the wartime unity of the Big Three. The atom bomb becomes a means of international blackmail.

Fascism remains in Spain and Argentina. The real powers behind fascism in Germany and Japan and Italy—the big industrialists who financed Hitler—are left unpunished and their wealth untouched.

Talk of new war goes almost unrebuked—while the hunger and devastation of World War II are still unchecked and unrepaired.

In our own country, Congress feels emboldened to try a wrecking job on price control, to drive for the destruction of unions, to brush aside the progressive program which was the legacy of FDR.

And workers — some 750,000 of them — are still on strike for decent wages while living costs rocket to new highs each week.

The Other Side

That's one side of the post V Day medal. Look at that side alone and you feel alarmed, even discouraged.

But it isn't the only side. The workers organized in the CIO, with FTA up in front, have won the largest wage increases in recent labor history.

They've won long and bitter strikes lasting 90-100 days and, in our own American Tobacco strike, six months. During those strikes, the workers had to resist and overcome everything in the anti-union employer's book—from police clubs to lies, slander and vitriolic abuse in the newspapers and over the radio.

In many instances, as in Campbell's Soup, workers have won demands without strikes—due to their own solidarity and to the strength of those who did have to hit the picketlines.

In foreign lands, democratic forces are increasing in strength despite every obstacle and every temporary setback in their way. The imperialists and the makers of new world wars have to reckon with the people as they never had to do before.

And at home, reactionary Congressmen and their big business bosses are seeing a prairie fire of opposition building up against their plans to wreck living standards, crush labor.

To Clinch the Victory

The greatest victories in the history of mankind can flow out of V Day, 1945, but they will not come of themselves. We have to fight and work for them as hard as we fought and worked to crush German and Japanese military power.

FTA and CIO have the program to win these victories. The people are ready to move, just as they moved in 1944 to defeat reaction then and to set us on the way to progress. To realize that program we have to organize, fight when necessary, lead at all times.

FTA-CIO today leads the way to organization of hundreds of thousands of unorganized workers. It leads a fight [illegible] in the California cannery drive, where the future of the Wagner Act is at stake. Together with brother CIO unions, it leads a drive to organize the South and bring security to white and Negro workers alike.

Organizing the unorganized, fighting discrimination, raising living standards, and the political action that must go along with economic action are the key to real victory.

FTA Men Lead CIO In Florida

Tampa, Fla. — FTA Regional Director, John G. Lackner, was elected President of the Florida Industrial Union Council at the recent state CIO convention.

Lackner will head the Florida CIO's 11-man Executive Board. Another FTA member, Taylor Sneed, elected to the Executive Board. Sneed is Co-Chairman of Local 100 in Orlando.

FTA's four Florida locals were represented at the convention by the following delegates. Edward H. Orleman, Local 4A, Jacksonville; Taylor Sneed, Clarence Walton, and Sam Carter, Local 100, Orlando; W. R. Fischer, Dorothy Ellis, Pete Pumphrey and Albert Boykin; Homer Kelley, Local 9, Perrine.

The convention lashed out at the terror against the Negro people in Columbia, Tenn., and set up a permanent Florida CIO Anti-Lynch Committee.

Council to Meet

The Illinois-Indiana Regional Council Conference will be held May 26 at 10 am for all Illinois and Indiana Councils at 2424 West 35th St., Chicago 32. All locals in the region are urged to send delegates.

FTA news

Published twice a month from September to July inclusive and monthly in August at 838 Greenwich Street New York 14, N. Y. by the

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

affiliated with the Congress of Industrial Organizations

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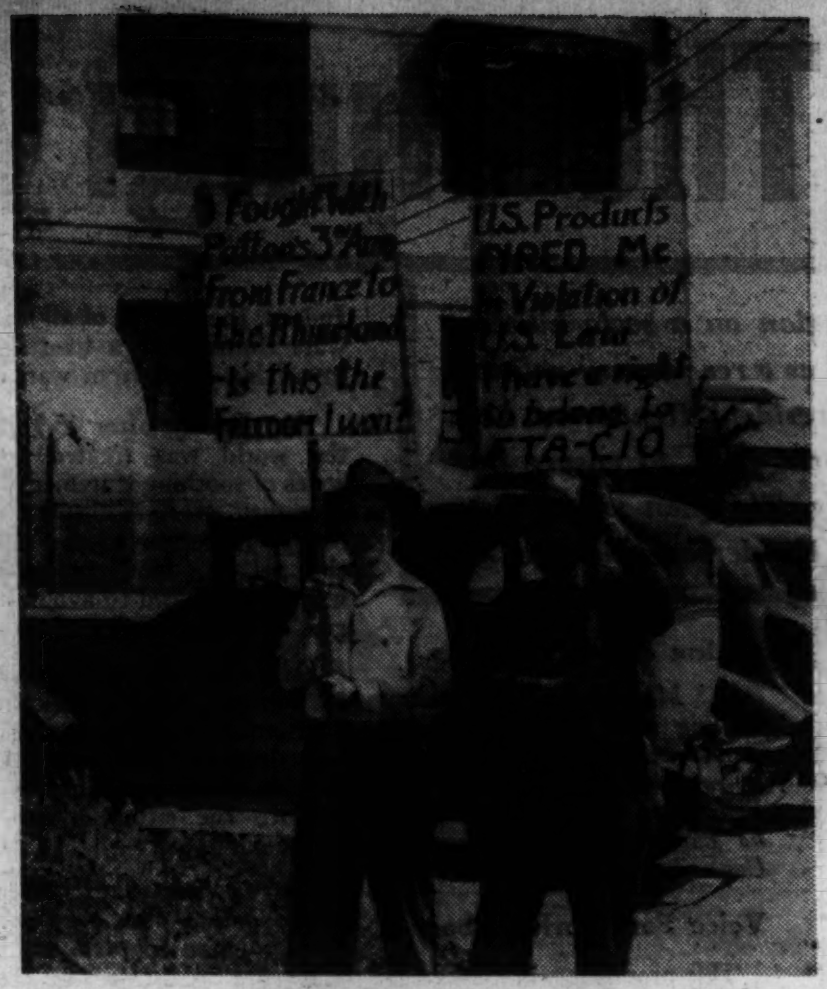
Editor: C. W. Fowler

Subscription:
$1 a year to non-members

"Reentered as second class matter December 30, 1944, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879."

NEXT ISSUE: Material must be in by 9 a.m. May 20.

Vol. VI, No. 10 May 15, 1946


I Fought With Patton's 3rd Army From France to the Rhineland Is this the Farmer Union?
U.S. Products FIRED Me Violation of U.S. Law I have a right to belong to FTA-CIO

Father and son and both members of FTA, Robert and Floyd Leach picket the Santa Clara, Calif. plant of U.S. Products Co. where they were fired for exercising their rights under the Wagner Act. Both men refused to pay dues to the AFL Teamsters, sticking by their right to belong to FTA-CIO. Robert Leach wears the Bronze Star for heroism with Patton's army through France and Germany; Floyd Leach has been a seasonal worker at U.S. Products for 10 years. FTA and CIO throughout the nation are fighting AFL-employer attempts to smash the Wagner Act as an attack on all workers everywhere.

FTA leaders study reports from the field in the California cannery drive, where FTA is fighting for the right of 70,000 cannery workers to join a union of their own choice. AFL Teamsters and employers are teamed up to deny this right, break the Wagner Act for similar attacks on CIO unions all over the country. Shown are (seated) FTA Intl. Representative Roberta Montgomery and FTA President Donald Henderson. Standing are Mrs. Peggy Emick, secretary of Local 8 in Modesto, Calif., and Intl. Representative R. L. Warren, recently beaten by AFL Teamster goons.

Urge NLRB Act In Cannery Case

Eyes on the California cannery case turned to the Natl. Labor Relations Board in Washington again this week and to the canneries, where the AFL Teamsters and the bosses continued [illegible] of workers to join a union of their own choice.

The NLRB is being asked to file contempt charges in the California courts against both employers and the Teamsters for violation of the Wagner Act and flagrant defiance of Board orders.

Washington observers pointed out that unless the NLRB does press such charges, it might just as well sit back and wait for every employer and every AFL phoney in the country to start trampling all over its rules and orders.

With this in mind, FTA President Donald Henderson this week sent a summary of the case and a suggested resolution of support to all FTA locals and to other CIO unions, particularly those having conventions this spring and summer.

Among big CIO unions whose support has been forthcoming are the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, meeting this week in Atlantic City, and the Steelworkers, whose President Philip Murray has already given his public support to FTA.

The resolution, which is also being brought up in more than 300 CIO Councils throughout the country, said in part:

"This attack (on the Wagner Act), which threatens all of labor's gains in the past 10 years and particularly those of workers in the CIO, is being made at the expense of a CIO affiliate, FTA-CIO;

"The cannery employers are conducting this attack on the Wagner Act by signing collusive contracts with the Teamsters in defiance of the NLRB, and by firing and otherwise intimidating workers who wish to join a CIO union of their own choice."

It calls on all CIO members to write and wire NLRB Chairman Paul Herzog, Washington 25, D. C., and members Gerard Reilly and John Houston urging them to "take immediate steps to end employer-Teamster collusion in this drive against the Wagner Act and to guarantee a free and fair election to the workers in the California canning industry."

Fight AFL Goons

Meantime, AFL goon squads continued to roam the cannery valleys looking for a chance to beat FTA people into submission—and not finding it. FTA members just don't respond to AFL terror the way AFL thugs believe they should.

For example, out in Sacramento, the FTA has a picketline around a Libby, McNeil and Libby plant where they were locked out. AFL Teamsters, full of self-righteousness, threatened to have the law on FTA if it didn't let the Teamsters thugs through the line. Said Fred Less, president of the FTA Cannery Council:

"The goons brought into Sacramento to beat through the line of CIO people outside Libby, McNeil include some pretty punchy customers, but I can't believe that the legal talent employed by the Teamsters bosses would be unwise enough to seek criminal complaints against peaceful pickets who resisted being slugged by professional pugs."

And in Stockton, Calif., a joint committee of FTA and Intl. Longshoremen and Warehousemens Union members is working to end the lockout of more than 200 workers engineered by the bosses at the Richmond-Chase cannery.

"We want to work and will work," said committee chairman Harry Dyer, one of the locked-out workers. "The company is to blame for keeping us out of the plant and for spoiling vitally needed food. They want to try to force us to pay $2 a month to the Teamsters, but we want to have our right to join a union of our own choice."

Moreno Wires NLRB

Luisa Moreno, FTA regional director and vice-president, wired a protest to the NLRB in Washington, saying:

"1200 workers at Sacramento and 200 in Stockton locked out by employers refusing to operate until they clear through Teamsters. Possibility lockout will spread to other plants where workers refuse to give up their legal rights. Unfair labor practice charges are mounting daily in all operating canneries. Delay will only worsen situation."

Such tactics are doing more damage to needed food supplies than can be undone in months, FTA officials have pointed out. Unless the Natl. Labor Relations Board acts to end the Teamster-employer combine against the CIO, still more food supplies will be lost.

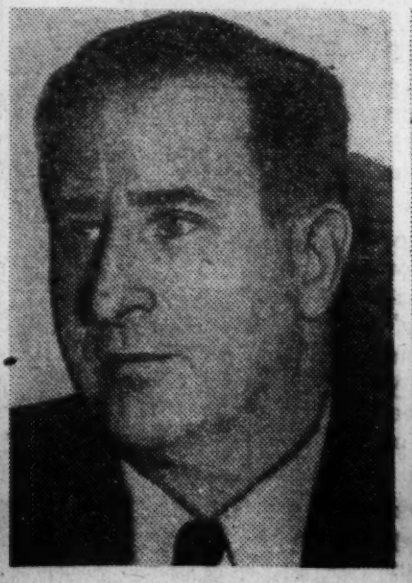
Speed is essential. Unlike other products, food won't wait in the ground to be processed. Have you sent your wires to the NLRB in Washington yet? Have you asked your local CIO Council to send protests?

If you haven't, do it now—and help save your union, the CIO, and the lives of people who depend on American food.

'United We Won,' Say Leaders

"We worked together and Campbell's had to come through," said Local 194 President John Gallecher of Chicago in commenting on the 15c raise won for 9,000 FTA workers. "The biggest soup cannery in the world responded to united action—as we knew it would when we started."

"Biggest victory in the history of our union at Campbell's," commented Jack Fox, Illinois-Indiana Regional Director. "The company tried to split us, but it wouldn't work. The same unity from now on out will bring our workers even bigger results in the future."



"They tried to drive a wedge between the men and women workers by offering women 2.5c less, but FTA doesn't put up with discrimination," said Atlantic Regional Director Lewis Bentzley. "My heartiest congratulations to both locals on this great victory."

United action pays off is the way Local 80 President Herbert Kling of Camden, N. J., characterized the 15c straight-across the board wage raise won at Campbell's. "We won because we worked and acted together — and that's the key to even bigger victories ahead."

A Plan To Feed The Hungry

Food is needed to save the world from starvation on a scale hitherto unknown in history. Today, food is being used as a reactionary political weapon by U. S. and British imperialism. President Henderson here offers a plan to end the tory monopoly on world food, to ensure that all who need food receive it fully and fairly. The plan was sent to President Truman in a letter from President Henderson this week.

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

The utter failure of the voluntary food control program to meet the needs of the peoples of Europe, Africa and Asia is now publicly confessed even by those who advocated it most strenuously as a complete solution to the crisis.

It is also conceded that neither will the 37 suggested ways for consumers to conserve food touch the heart of the world problem; nor will any program of "wheatless days" or similar devices begin to make up the deficits in supplies that are today bringing famine to millions of men, women and children.

The Combined Food Board, dominated by the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada has proved unwilling and incapable of solving the crisis. The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, despite the energy of its Director, is on the verge of self-confessed failure. Indeed, it was never claimed that UNRRA could do more than nibble at the edges of the problem.

What Is Needed

What is needed on the part of the U. S. and all countries where food is available is a realization that planned incentives to production, just and speedy distribution of world supplies, and real controls over consumption are imperative if we are to halt death and disease now looming on a massive scale unknown in human history.

We need to shift the emphasis from appeals to consumers to a program involving radical changes in the food policies of all the surplus countries, starting with our own. We need to recognize the fact that food policy is a basic part of foreign policy, and to face the need for changes in both.

In the name of the Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union of America, CIO, a union of 100,000 workers in the food processing industry, I call your attention again to the urgency and depth of the crisis and to a program for its solution.

To begin with, we must recognize that the problem is not one of merely temporary nature. Talk of an "emergency" that will disappear with the next harvest or of a "120 day sprint" against starvation shows an ignorance of the facts that borders on cynicism.

The problem is one of world scope, and will be one of many years duration. To limit our approach to a short-term program, ignoring the need for basic solutions, is an evasion.

Political Weapon

World food needs cannot be met without world cooperation. The present policies of the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada, which make up the Combined Food Board, show that they regard world food supplies as a monopoly they can use for exploiting political advantage.

The Combined Food Board, which now controls world supplies as it did during the war, shows a steady hostility to needy countries whose governments it does not approve and an undue friendliness to those with reactionary regimes imposed from without.

This has extended to the Combined Food Board's dealings with UNRRA, which has been unable to meet even those commitments that the U. S. and Britain have already agreed upon. A study of UNRRA's failure to supply even the barest crisis needs of such countries as Poland, Yugoslavia, France and others of similar democratic trends will convince you that food is today being used as a reactionary political weapon .

In this connection, I must repeat my request of March 11 that you recall Herbert Hoover as "Honorary Chairman" of the Famine Emergency Committee.

Mr. Hoover's hasty and luxurious airplane flights add nothing to the knowledge of the facts of the situation They merely add to the anti-democratic prejudices of Mr. Hoover and those like him. They serve also to create dislike of the U. S. on the part of the millions whose sufferings Mr. Hoover's statements mock.

Henderson

To create a united world approach to the problem of world food, I suggest that the following steps be taken at once:

Four Point Program

1. *Abolition of the Combined Food Board and establishment of a World Food Board with representation for the Soviet Union and other democratic and friendly countries now excluded.*

2. *Establishment of production and supply goals by countries capable of producing a surplus beyond their own needs.*

3. Supervision of distribution, without political, racial or national discrimination by the World Food Board, including distribution to colonial or dependent countries or areas.

4. *Membership in policy making and supervisory positions on the World Food Board by representatives of the World Federation of Trade Unions, to be chosen by the Executive Council of the WFTU.*

Voice For World Labor

This provision will give voice in world food problems to the organization of 75,000,000 workers from 65 countries of America, Europe, Africa and Asia. Their presence on the World Food Board will be a guarantee against discrimination and other political misuse of food.

Such a program will create the basis for a united nations approach to the prevention of mass starvation now and in the future.

I turn now to the more specifically domestic aspects of the problem as they affect this country.

It cannot be honestly said that we have to meet merely a temporary situation. Nor can it be [illegible] government has been guilty only of "errors of judgment" in under-estimating the food needs of the postwar world.

From the date of the first United Nations food conference in Hot Springs in May, 1943, it was recognized that joint action of all the participating countries was needed to prevent postwar starvation. Indeed, the history of all major wars shows that a food crisis invariably flows from war.

Yet directly after V-J Day the world was treated to a series of soothing statements by Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson to the effect that U. S. food production would be reduced to avoid dangers of a "surplus."

Following this, a whole series of controls over production, distribution and consumption was dropped, thereby adding to the crisis and helping to produce the situation we all now deplore.

Such policies must be reversed and a positive production program adopted at once if we are to tackle the world crisis in other than terms of the rankest political expediency.

Follow FDR Program

On the domestic front, we must use the same intelligence and determination in increasing food production that we used under the late President Roosevelt in producing weapons of war during the fight against Axis fascism.

We must provide the farmers and food processors of this country with the same opportunities and incentives to produce that we provided for the manufacture of tanks, planes, ships and guns during hostilities.

We must reconvert and add to existing facilities for food [illegible] to V-J Day. We must allocate the raw materials of food—especially cereals, oils and fats—as we did with copper, steel and other materials of war.

We must particularly aim at involving the family size farms in an all-out drive for top farm output. This must be done by the use of subsidies, production bonuses and other necessary aids.

It should be remembered that though there are four million family size farms in the nation, they account for only 15 percent of the total farm output. This has been due to the government's excessive emphasis on encouragement to big corporation farms and its failure to extend the same aid to the family farm. This policy must be corrected if we are to reach our full potential agricultural output.

Existing agencies such as the Farm Security Administration, the Commodity Credit Corporation and others must be expanded and new ones created as was done during the war, and they must aim at increasing the output of all farmers.

Ration Essential Food

On the consumption end, we must immediately reinstate rationing of essential foods, particularly cereals, fats and oils. This point, you will recall, was suggested in my letter to you of March 11. I was glad to note the subsequent support of this point from such men as Herbert Lehman and F. H. La-

(Continued on Page 5)

These Are The Victims

Children such as these Yugoslav war orphans are the victims of starvation policies practiced by the U. S. and Britain against the democratic peoples of liberated Europe. Similar starvation is brought about in Africa and Asia, for the greater glory of American imperialism and of the British Empire. FTA-CIO demands a program of production and distribution of world food without discrimination.

FTA Plans To Feed The Hungry

(Continued from Page 4)

Guardia, though as yet I have not seen any serious move on the part of the government to carry through on the suggestion.

It goes without saying that price control must be carried on without amendments, in order to protect both U. S. and foreign consumers and to ensure adequate supplies.

The present drive to inflation in Congress and its appeasement by the OPA and the Department of Agriculture must be stopped. As your economists have doubtless informed you, inflation invariably means less production rather than more.

"So they send us a man who believes in depressions!"

End Class B Citizenship

The workers who produce and process our food supply must be secure in the normal rights of other American workers. At present, many thousands of food workers are denied collective bargaining rights under the Wagner act, are excluded from benefits of the Wage-Hour and Social Security acts, and are generally treated as second class citizens.

As a result of this discrimination, hundreds of thousands of food and agricultural workers receive sub-standard wages and live in sub-standard conditions. It is well known that workers on a sub-standard scale of living cannot produce at top levels.

These discriminations must be stopped and all food production and processing workers must be included in the standards set up for industrial workers.

In addition, they must be included on a basis of full equality in all future and pending legislation such as the minimum wage amendments, social security amendments, national health program, and the like. Social benefits must also be extended to working farmers and other self-employed workers in the agricultural industries.

Long Term Program

This program as outlined will go a long way to meet the present world crisis. A longer term program to meet shortages that will last for many years requires a still deeper change in the policies of this country and of other food surplus nations.

It requires a recognition of the right of liberated countries to carry out their own social and economic programs without interference from outside sources.

It requires particularly the recognition of the right of all countries to carry out land reforms, breaking up the feudal systems of Europe and Asia that have meant starvation and exploitation for generations of their own and other peoples.

It requires the freedom of all peoples from colonial and semi-colonial oppression which now weighs upon hundreds of millions in Africa, Asia and Latin-America.

It requires the economic and industrial development of these areas to the point where they can take their place in a world economy of plenty rather than scarcity.

On our part we must put an end to present policies of disunity and provocation pursued by the U. S., Britain and their satellites in the United Nations Organization and bring about a renewal of "Big Three" unity as advocated by the late President Roosevelt.

We must put an end to the present use of food for reactionary political ends and recognize food as the basic ingredient of freedom from fear and insecurity.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Donald Henderson
President, FTA-CIO

Start Wage Talks With Reynolds

By Theodosia Simpson, Business Agent, Local 22

Armed with facts and figures which prove beyond a doubt that R. J. Reynolds can afford the biggest wage increases in its history, Local 22 entered negotiations with the Camels cigarette company in Winston-Salem, N. C.

A union shop, 65c an hour minimum wage and a 25c an hour general increase are the union's chief demands. The present agreement, which has been extended to June 30, provides for maintenance of membership, automatic check-off and a 55c minimum.

The union is also asking complete automatic progressive increases within the rate ranges up to the top rate. At present the workers get automatic increases to the two-thirds point of the rate range, and the remaining increase is given on the basis of merit.

Other Demands

Other union demands include 10 days sick leave with pay, seven paid holidays, improved vacations and shorter grievance procedure.

That the company can pay is proved by its net profit outlook for 1946 of $45 million, based on 1945 profits of $19 million, plus $20 million from the recent price increase granted by OPA to the cigarette industry, and an additional $6,000,000 to be saved by the firm in cut back from war profits tax. The union's 25c an hour and other wage demands would cost Reynold's $6,000,000.

Members of the negotiating committee are: Local 22 Chairman Phil Koritz, Business Agent Theodosia Simpson, Moranda Smith, Spencer Long, Clark (Slim) Sheppard and Jethro Dunlap.

Salmon Settled; Raises Clinched

By Wendell Phillips, Jr., Regional Director and V. A. Velasco, Sec'y, Local 7

Settlement of the Alaska Salman Industry strike was announced on April 27 following the signing of two agreements for resident and non-resident workers by the five FTA locals involved.

Local 7, Seattle, Wash., won a 10% wage increase over the 1945 wage scale for non-resident workers and agreed to retain in operation its wartime contract with the industry. In addition to the wage increase, the industry agreed to raise stand-by pay from $25 to $50 and to provide first class transportation for all union delegates.

The increase comes in addition to increases effected last year which brought basic rates for all Alaska districts into line with the rates paid in the Bristol Bay, Alaska, area.

A new agreement was reached for the 1946 season for Alaska resident workers, signed by Local 237, Ketchikan; 222, Petersburg; 269, Juneau; and 263, Hoonah.

Resident workers won increases ranging from 10c to 15c an hour for straight time work; 12c to 18c an hour in overtime pay; and a 16c an hour increase in penalty time pay. In addition, wage guarantees for the season were raised as much as $89 a season for in town resident workers and $50 a season for out of town resident workers.

FTA Man Heads CIO In Richmond

Richmond, Va.—The election of International Representative Max Sussman as president of the Richmond Industrial Council was hailed by Locals 45 and 57 as indication of FTA's growing influence in the labor movement of this city. Some 4,000 members of 13 CIO locals are represented on the Richmond IUC.

Recent elections for the City Common Council and Board of Alderman saw Locals 45 and 57 all out on political action. They helped distribute 12,000 pieces of PAC literature and sample ballots for the city elections in four wards.

Now the two locals are participating in a registration campaign to oust Senator Harry Byrd and his political machine from state politics. The Byrd machine was responsible for Governor Tuck calling out the state militia against strikers of the AFL International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, recently.

A drive to organize the unorganized at the Larus Stemmery is being conducted by Local 45. First prize in the contest, which closes July 26, is $15; second prize, $10; and third prize, $5.

BILL HABER, back at work this week for FTA after four years in the army. He served 37 months in the Southwest Pacific where he received the Bronze Star. Between 1939 and '42, Haber organized peanut workers in Suffolk, Va., tobacco workers in Richmond, and agricultural and cotton compress workers in Tennessee and Arkansas. Local 120 members remember Bill from the days they first organized the Quaker Oats plant in Akron, Ohio. Haber's new assignment is in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., organizing cigar workers.

Local 58 Wins Raises

Detroit, Mich. — Wage gains and other improvements were won at the Webster Tobacco Co., J. J. Geilow pickle plant and La Choy Food Products plant, as the result of Local 58's recent contract negotiations, according to International Organizer C. K. Armstrong.

The new contract at Webster Cigar established a 60c an hour hiring rate plus a general five cents an hour increase for all hourly classification. Mechanics won a 20c an hour increase. Piece rates in 13 cigar making classifications were increased to $1 per thousand, and two classifications to $1.25 per thousand. In addition, Webster employees won five paid holidays and improved vacations.

At J. J. Gielow, Local 58 won a 15% general wage increase retroactive to November 1, 1945. A wage reopening clause was also included in the new contract.

A general 10c an hour increase at the La Choy Food Products Co., brought wages for women up to 85c an hour and men's wages up to $1.05 an hour. The hiring rate for women was set at 75c with a 5 cent an hour increase every 30 days until the top rate is reached. A similar automatic increase schedule for men starts with a hiring rate of 85c an hour.

New Officers

32 **Elwood, Ind.** — Local 32 recently elected a group of new local officers. They are: Gertrude Jackson, Pres.; Bertha Mock, Vice-Pres.; Myrta Brillhart, Fin. Secy.; and Rose Etchison, Rec. Secy. Flo Banks is chairman of the grievance committee.

The local had a party after the installation of officers at the last membership meeting.

By Pauline Murray, Reporter

Va. CIO Convention

45 **Richmond, Va.**—Local 45 was represented at the Sixth Convention of the Virginia State IUC last month by Charles McClaiborne, Bennie Rouse, Mary Lawrence, Gladys Randolph and Emma Howard. Charlie, who is known by the locals around here for his good voice, led the singing of trade union songs.

The delegates returned with new spirit and determination to complete organization at the Larus plant before negotiations begin.

By Emma Howard, Reporter

Raise $325

207 **Brooklyn, N. Y.** — Local 207 raised $325.00 for the Red Cross, recently, in a fund raising drive and raffle at the Hills Bros. plant, according to Reporter Alice Horan.

Standing

According to Article 12, Section 8 of the International Constitution, the following locals are no longer in good standing:

Local 207, Brooklyn N. Y.; Local 4-A, Jacksonville, Fla.; Local 100, Orlando, Fla.; Local 65, Elberta, Mich.; Local 38; Muncie, Ind.

"Wait a minute, mister—have you given your dollar to P.A.C.?"

They Love Labor, (If It Isn't CIO)

How dearly the big daily papers love labor—especially when it isn't CIO.

Take this from the Journal of Commerce, rival in New York's best financial circles to the Wall Street Journal. Says the Journal of Commerce, editorializing on the difference between the CIO and the AFL:

"The program adopted by the national leaders of the AFL, and outlined in its Labor's Monthly Survey, offers the brightest hope for better labor relations on the economic horizon. No forward looking citizen, whether wage earner or employer, can take issue with the policies there outlined.

"It is argued that if wage increases had been limited to 10c an hour following the end of the war, the series of costly strikes could have been avoided, numerous price ceiling increases would have proved unnecessary and the real standard of living of wage earners would have risen substantially."

Well, you "forward looking citizens," are you still with us? Just hang around a minute longer and listen to this, from the same Journal of Commerce editorial:

"In the meanwhile, the AFL is doing a much-needed educational job in exposing the fallacies inherent in the 'Join Us and Get 18.5c Slogan'."

Makes you feel guilty, doesn't it, to be taking more than 10c an hour raises when the AFL and the Journal of Commerce work so hard to persuade you not to—and for your own good, of course.

Almost makes you feel there must be something to this CIO propaganda that bigger pay raises are better for workers than smaller ones.

But it's nice to know how much the daily papers love labor—even if it is a kind of one-sided love affair.

'Merit Awards' Planned For Best FTA Builders

Merit awards will go to FTA members outstanding in building and consolidating their locals, Secretary-Treasurer Harold J. Lane announced at FTA headquarters this week.

Awards will be made by the FTA at each national convention to the outstanding members in every Regional Council. A special award committee will be set up at the convention to examine the qualifications of candidates for the award.

The merit award is a beautifully designed dress pin with an additional plate bearing the words "merit award" and with a five point diamond between the two words

All members of FTA, with the exception of paid employes of the union, are eligible for the award, Lane announced. Local union executive boards are urged to submit the names and qualifications of the candidates they select not later than 30 days before the opening of the national convention this year.

PAC Radio Programs

A transcribed musical dramatization of PAC's role in the political scene, originally presented on the CIO radio broadcast heard each Saturday at 6:45 p.m., over the ABC network, is now available at a cost of $4. This record is not for radio presentation and may be played on a regular phonograph machine.

Featuring ballad singers Tom Glazer, Bess and Baldwin Hawes in songs written especially for the program by People's Songs, the record can be used at union and community group meetings, rallies and private gatherings.

Order from CIO-PAC, 205 East 42nd Street, New York 17, N. Y.

CIO Plans For '46

(In the previous installment, the CIO-PAC program for victory in the 1946 elections dealt with foreign policy, demanding a renewal of "Big Three" Unity between the U.S., Britain and the Soviet Union, and with the attack on workers' living standards by big monopoly business. This installment deals with the need for political action to clinch victories won by the workers on the picket lines, and outlines a program of minimum legislative demands.)

Political Tasks

Now the fight shifts from the picket line to Capitol Hill and to the ballot bo Our victories on the economic front will be swept away if the people meet defeat on the political front.

The coalition of poll-tax Democrats and reactionary Republicans thwarts the peoples' program.

The National Association of Manufacturers demands the termination of all price controls. Hundreds of lobbyists swarm Capitol Hill for special privilege amendments on behalf of the National Real Estate Board, the Meat Packing Trust and other selfish interests.

We demand the continuance of the Price Control Act, without loopholes or amendments.

Minimum Wages

Sub-standard wages must be eliminated from American industry. The existing minimum is inadequate and obsolete, both for the human needs of the workers and for the economic needs of the nation.

We urge the immediate enactment of the 65-75 cent minimum wage amendments, including the extension of benefits to seamen, food processing workers and employees of large retail stores and chains. We denounce the maneuver of attaching the highly inflationary Pace amendment to this legislation in order to kill it.

The Right to a Decent Home

We demand immediate enactment of the Patman-Wyatt emergency housing bill, including the essential provisions for 600 million dollars in subsidies and for ceiling prices on new and old homes.

Medical Care

The national health is not good. Over 40% of our selectees were found physically unfit for military duty. More than 23 million Americans have chronic diseases.

We demand the immediate enactment of the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Health Bill to make adequate medical care and hospitalization available to the people. We also urge the enactment of the Wagner-Murray-Dingell proposals for more adequate old-age benefits and unemployment insurance.

The 1946 Congressional elections are only five months away. In order to defeat reactionary Republicans and equally reactionary Democrats, and to put progressive men and women in their places, we have to have a yardstick to measure candidates by.

Such a yardstick is the CIO-PAC program, worked out at a CIO-PAC meeting three weeks ago. This is the program, continued from the May 1 issue of FTA News.

Veterans

We ask that Congress amend the present G.I. bill of rights to provide more liberal allotments for education and easier terms for loans to purchase homes, businesses and farms. Congress should also provide for veteran priorities in the purchase of surplus properties and make provision for their sale in smaller units.

The Right to a Good Education

We propose that the Federal Government establish minimum educational standards, based on the principle that every boy and girl is entitled to free education through the high school level, with advanced study for those of demonstrated ability.

We urge federal grants in aid to assist in financing this program and to eliminate the existing inequalities between (1) rural and urban education and (2) between education for Negro and education for white children, without interference with private educational institutions or local control.

Freedom from Fear

Fascist, subversive movements, destructive of the civil liberties of minority groups in American life, are flourishing openly. The Ku Klux Klan is being revived. Numerous anti-Semitic organizations are spreading their poison.

Attacks on Jews, Catholics, Negroes, Italian-Americans and other minorities have been made even on the floor of the Congress by a few members of the Tory coalition.

The outrageous action of the State militia in Columbia, Tennessee, against an entire Negro community must not become America's post-war pattern in race relations.

The hateful practice of discrimination because of race, religion or national origin must be stamped out.

We demand that Congress pass a permanent Fair Employment Practices Act with adequate appropriations and enforcement powers.

We urge Congress to abolish the Wood-Rankin Committee.

We call upon the Senate of the United States to enact H.R. 7 to abolish the poll tax.

Free, strong and responsible labor organizations are the bulwark of democracy. Their growth and the extension of the process of collective bargaining throughout American industry must be encouraged as an objective of national policy. The right to join labor unions of their own choosing must be guaranteed and and protected for all wage earners, including federal, state and local government employees. Legislation such as the Case Bill and the Ball-Burton-Hatch Bill, designed to destroy labor unions must be defeated.

Spell Security

The program of Franklin Roosevelt embodies the hopes and aspirations of the common people of America. It was for this program that they voted in 1944.

The reactionary coalition in Congress defies the will of the people as they expressed it at the polls.

The 1946 elections must witness a tremendous reaffirmation of their will by the election of candidates committed, in word and deed, to the realization of this program.

More than 75,000 CIO workers — members of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers — have been kept out on strike by the Westinghouse corporation for close to 120 days. Strikers are demanding 18.5c an hour, which is CIO standard. Westinghouse offers 9.7c. Westinghouse gets paid by the U. S. Treasury for not producing. Strikers get nothing. They're fighting our fight.

"Another war would put us in the Morgan bracket!"

HERE ARE YOUR FACTS

On Profit Hogs

By JOSEPH CALIFF, Research Director

Figures on corporation profits in 1945, just published by the U. S. Department of Commerce, show that food and tobacco companies fared much better than most other industries last year. This is what the figures show:

Profits: Profits before taxes of food manufacturing corporations were the greatest in history in 1945, amounting to a total of $1,750,000,000. This was a 10% increase over 1944 profits, in spite of the fact that profits of all industries as a whole dropped by more than 13% during this same period.

Profits of tobacco corporations were five percent less in 1945 than in 1944, compared to the 13% decrease for all industry. They amounted to the respectable total of $152 million.

Sales: Whereas for industry percent in 1945, food industry sales increased by five percent and tobacco corporation sales rose 5.5%.

Note that food corporations made 10% more profits in 1945 on only five percent more sales. This must be at least partly due to the fact that their workers were more efficient and increased their productivity during the year.

Savings: The figures here show how much of a nest egg corporations have built up during the war in the form of savings (additions to reserves and surplus)—that is, how much of their huge war profits they have held on to.

In 1945, food companies salted away over $300 million. This is nearly six times as much as they saved in the years just before the war. Their total savings for the five war years 1941-45 come to nearly $1,500,000,000.

Tobacco companies feathered their nests to the tune of $16,000,000 in 1945. This is one-third more than they saved in the years before the war. The total amount which these companies put aside in the last five years comes to almost $100,000,000.

Income taxes: Food corporations paid more than $1,000,000,000 in Federal and state income and excess profits taxes in 1945. This was 10 times greater than their tax bill before the war (in 1936-39). Tobacco corporations paid $75 million in taxes, more than three times as much as before the war.

These figures show what large in taxes during the war. With the excess profits tax now repealed and the Federal income tax rate on corporations five percent lower this year, profits will soar.

Figures showing profits during the first months of 1946 are just beginning to become available. They show that the profits of food and tobacco companies are running from 15 to 65% higher this year than last. This bears out the prediction that 1946 will be a year of record business prosperity. A future column will show figures on the current profits of companies under contract to FTA.

United Strategy Wins

A Letter to Locals 80 and 194

By HAROLD LANE, Secretary-Treasurer

I want to extend to you and through you to the officers and members of your locals the sincere congratulations of the national officers in winning the wage fight with the Campbell Soup Company.

In winning this increase of 15c an hour across the board, you have secured the largest dollar and cents wage increase ever obtained from the Campbell Soup Company. This amounts to approximately $3,500,000 yearly wage increase and an additional $500,000 retroactive pay, making a total of $4,000,000.

I believe at this time we should analyze and recognize two basic reasons which made this victory possible.

The first is the over-all strategy and tactics which were decided upon at a meeting in the National Office on February 22nd with the following people present: Regional Director of Indiana-Illinois, Jack Fox; Business Manager of Local 194, Paul Gardner; Vice-President and Regional Director of the Middle-Atlantic Area, Lewis C. Bentzley; Business Manager of Local 80, Anthony Valentino; President of Local 80, Herbert Kling; Washington Representative FTA-CIO, Elizabeth Sasuly; Research Department FTA-CIO, Joseph Califf and International Secretary-Treasurer Harold J. Lane.

Unity Won

The second is the unity of both Local 194 and Local 80 which made this victory possible. This unity made possible the successful carrying out of the tactics and program that was decided upon and referred to above.

Special recognition should be given to the fact that the unity of Local 194 [illegible] blasting the arbitrators discriminatory award on the Camden case, made it inevitable that the

differential of 2.5c would be eliminated.

Special commendation should go to Local 80 in showing their unity with Local 194 when during the closing hours of negotiations the company stalled on the question of applying the retroactivity date to Local 194.

The solid and united front of both locals clinched the decision in favor of the members of Local 80 and Local 194 and actually resulted in an additional 2.5c for the women members of Local 80. Again I extend congratulations.

I believe we should learn from what was accomplished during this recent past period that the key to further progress and advancement of the interests of the members of both locals lies in mapping out a long range program.

Long Range Program

This program over a long period of time should include a master agreement, union shop, bargaining on the Bedeaux [illegible] standards), ultimate elimination of differentials in method of work and rates that at the present time exist in a number of departments in both plants and coordination with the International of the organization of new Campbell Soup plants now being built. In discussion with various leaders of both locals, there is complete agreement that we should strive for these objectives.

Concretely, I would like to recommend that each local union executive board appoint a committee to meet jointly and to work out such a program and additional points which the committees will decide on.

Tactics Need Study

Naturally, we understand and agree that you can draw up a beautiful program on paper. In order to successfully carry out a constructive program, it is necessary that the largest number of stewards and leaders of both locals be fully acquainted with the program and the objectives, and have an understanding of the tactics needed to make the program a reality.

As a big step toward the program, I would like to recommend that after the program has been mapped out, regularly scheduled meetings should take place alternately between Chicago and Camden with from 35 to 40 of the leading shop stewards and officers of the locals present.

Then for a two day period—say Saturday or Sunday, this number of stewards should get together in each local union meeting, to thrash out policy and program. In my opinion this would be a positive guarantee that the over-all objectives as embodied in your program could be carried out successfully.

I am making these recommendations with only one thought in mind—the closest unity and cooperation of Local 80 and Local 194, so that we can go forward to bigger and better victories in the future with the membership of both locals.

Southern School Trains Leaders; More Coming

by Connie Anderson, Education Director

Bob Rogers, member of the negotiating committee in the first FTA plant in Montgomery, Alabama, said that at the Southern FTA Leadership Training School "I've gotten enough education in one week to last a lifetime." A lifetime is a long time and Bob exaggerated, but this sums up the feeling of the delegates at the FTA school, just completed at Highlander Folk School in Monteagle, Tenn.

After the two day discussion on stewards, Anna Lee Bonneau from the American Tobacco plant in Charleston, S. C., said: "I've never handled a grievance but I believe I could handle one 100% now. Before I was always afraid I would do something wrong."

Then from back home in one of the locals which had four delegates at the school, Local 19 of Memphis, Tenn., comes this report from Business Agent Karl Korstad: "Next year, if I have anything to do with it, there will be at least 10 at the school. It is certainly money well invested."

Easter Sunday night the delegates came together for our first home-cooked meal in the friendly meeting room, sang, got acquainted, saw the "People of the Cumberland," a movie that tells the story of the founding of this peoples' school in the Tennessee mountains. The Highlander staff organized us into work crews to take turns at setting and clearing the tables, and sweeping the rooms clean each morning. We were at home. The mountain air was brisk and sweet in early spring.

Promptly at 8:30 Monday morning classes started—a solid schedule all week long, starting off with wages and profits in our industries, then FTA and CIO organization and program. Two days were spent on stewards' work in organizing each department solidly to win grievances and carry out the union program.

Quizzes which were worked out in small groups summed up the subject of stewards. Spencer Long of Local 22, H. L. Zumbro of Local 19 and Johnny Carter of Local 150 acted out a grievance settlement. They demonstrated the run-around a worker gets who fails to insist on seeing his steward—and how different the outcome is when the steward comes into the picture. The "foreman" did a good job with the smooth talk of "tell me all about it—we always got along together and I will help you out."

Three-minute talks were worked up by the delegates with subjects such as "What is the Wagner Act All About" by Evelyn Risher of Local 15, "Compulsory Military Training Now is Wrong" by Johnny Barnett, veteran, of Local 22, and "Do Women Get a Fair Break in Your Shop and Local" by R. H. Smith, President of Local 75 in Houston.

The week closed with discussion of organization to defeat the bosses on the political front, and talks by Sec'y Treas. Harold Lane, on FTA finances and by Pres. Don Henderson, on the organizing job of FTA and the fight against reaction the world over.

Along about Tuesday the delegates had some sunshine and relaxation at the baseball game—uproarious and energetic—with Johnny Carter batting out the home runs. And again on Friday the school took to the woods for a breath of fresh air and exercise, scrambling down the mountainside to see a beautiful waterfall.

Evenings were packed full with singing, movies, games—and on Friday the Georgia poet—union organizer — preacher — teacher, Don West kept the delegates spellbound with his stories and poems. We met that night with all the working people of the South, those struggling in the valleys to break the stranglehold of low wages.

VoteAssessment For South Drive

FTA plans for gearing in with the CIO Southern Organizing drive were developed at an all-day meeting of some 20 Southern FTA Regional Directors, Organizers and Business Agents at Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tenn., April 28.

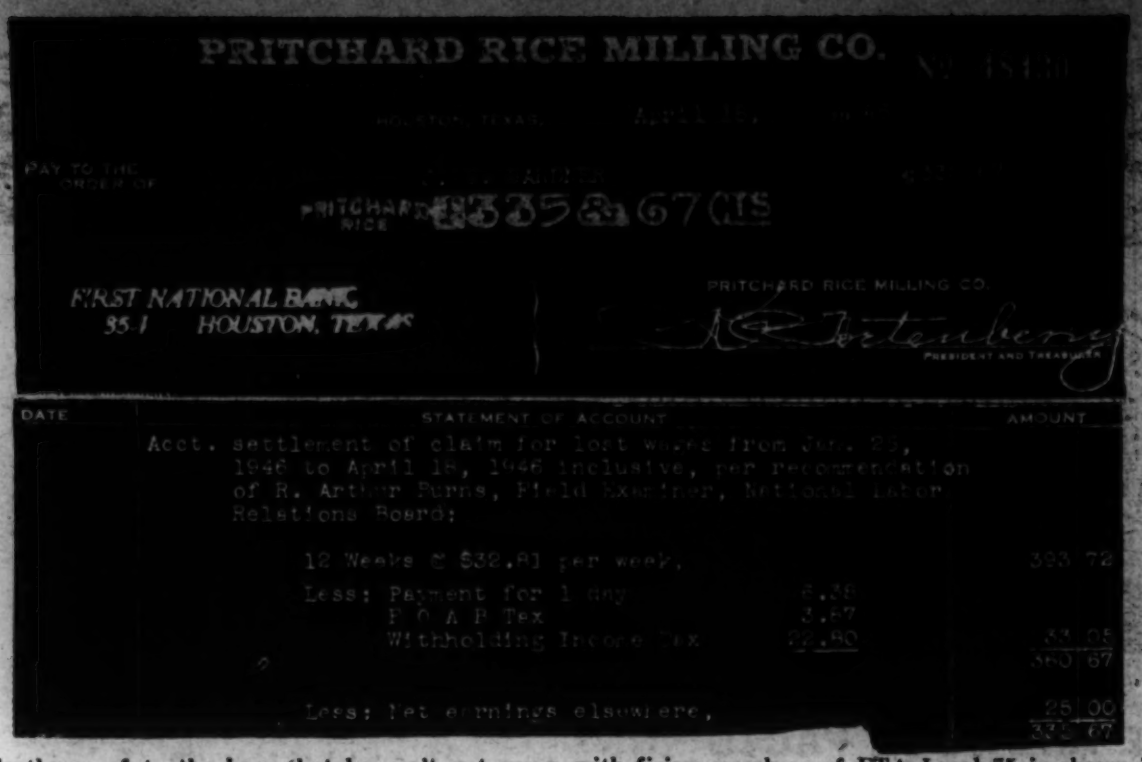
Following a report by President Donald Henderson on CIO plans in the South, there was discussion on FTA concentration points and the appointment of Frank Green, Tri-state Regional Director as FTA liaison with the CIO Director of the Southern Drive, Van A. Bittner.

Secretary-Treasurer Harold J. Lane presented the financial picture of FTA, pointing out that on present funds FTA cannot fulfill its responsibility to go all out on organizing. The following motions were adopted:

The Conference endorses the recommendation of the International Officers that all Southern locals pass an assessment of $3.00 per member. All funds raised from this assessment would go into a special Southern organizing fund to finance FTA's drive in the South to organize the unorganized. Once adopted by a local all members would be assessed $1.00 per month for three months.

The Conference further recommended that the Southern locals should propose to the International that a referendum be taken for a national assessment of $3.00 to be used exclusively for organizing purposes with the understanding that all locals already having voted to assess themselves should have such assessment credited to the mandatory National assessment if and when the National assessment is carried in accordance with the Constitution.

Two victims of frameup in Little Rock, Ark., confer with Congressman Hugh DeLacy (D. Wash., in center), CIO Assistant Counsel Frank Donner (on left), and Laurent Franz of the Natl. Federation for Constitutional Liberties at the two day civil rights meeting in Detroit last week. They are (fourth from left) FTA member Louis Jones, one of five facing prison for the "crime" of striking while the murderer of a striker goes free and Christopher Bates (second from left) editor of the Arkansas State News who was charged with "contempt" for printing an editorial criticizing conviction of the five FTA members.


PRITCHARD RICE MILLING CO.
PAY TO THE ORDER OF
PRITCHARD RICE
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DATE
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT
AMOUNT
Acct. settlement of claim for lost wages from Jan. 2, 1946 to April 1s, 1946 inclusive, per recommendation of R. Arthur Burns, Field Examiner, National Labor Relations Board:
12 Weeks @ $32.81 per week, 393 72
Less: Payment for 1 day 6.38
F.O.A.P. Tax 3.67
Withholding Income Tax 22.80 33 05
360 67
Less: Net earnings elsewhere, 25 00
335 67

Costly proof to the boss that he can't get away with firing members of FTA Local 75 is shown in this check for 12 weeks back pay just won for J. T. Gardner. Gardner had signed up with the local in Houston, was helping organize other workers when he was fired—along with his son, a veteran.

Arkansas Terror Aired at Meeting

Steps to join in the defense of FTA workers in Little Rock, Ark., who have been framed under Pappy O'Daniel's Anti-Violence Act, were taken this week by the newly-formed Civil Rights Congress, which has the Little Rock case high on its list of immediate campaigns.

Major speakers at the two-day conference last week at which the CRC was formed were Louis Jones, one of the Little Rock frame-up victims, and L. Christopher Bates, publisher of the ARKANSAS STATE NEWS, Negro weekly newspaper, who is under sentence for contempt of court for printing a story criticizing the conviction of the FTA members. Both attended the conference as delegates from FTA Local 98, which is on strike in [illegible] Little Rock.

"We are fighting and we need your help," Jones told 372 delegates from 23 states. "Some of the things they do to us down there you don't read about; but I know we will fight this case through and I want you to help us and pray that we win. We must win with your help."

A dramatic story of the struggle of Southern workers to organize was told the conference by Bates who said: "If there was ever a piece of injustice handed down to a group of people, it was in Little Rock. These men I know had been working in this particular plant 12 and 14 and 16 hours a day at a regular hourly pay.

"No overtime and all the other mills were paying high wages under a union contract. These men decided they wanted a contract. So they organized, tried to bargain, couldn't get anywhere so they had to strike. They struck."

How flagrant the injustice is was shown by Bates statement: "The commissioner of the jury is the head of the Pappy O'Daniel Free Enterprise organization. He has released several full page advertisements supporting the management. I am now free on bond for contempt of court because I printed a story on the indictments and said that the jury was handpicked. The decision was handed down on March 19 and I didn't print the story until March 29th."

Baltimore Wins In Gibbs

By Harold Kotzker, Int. Org.

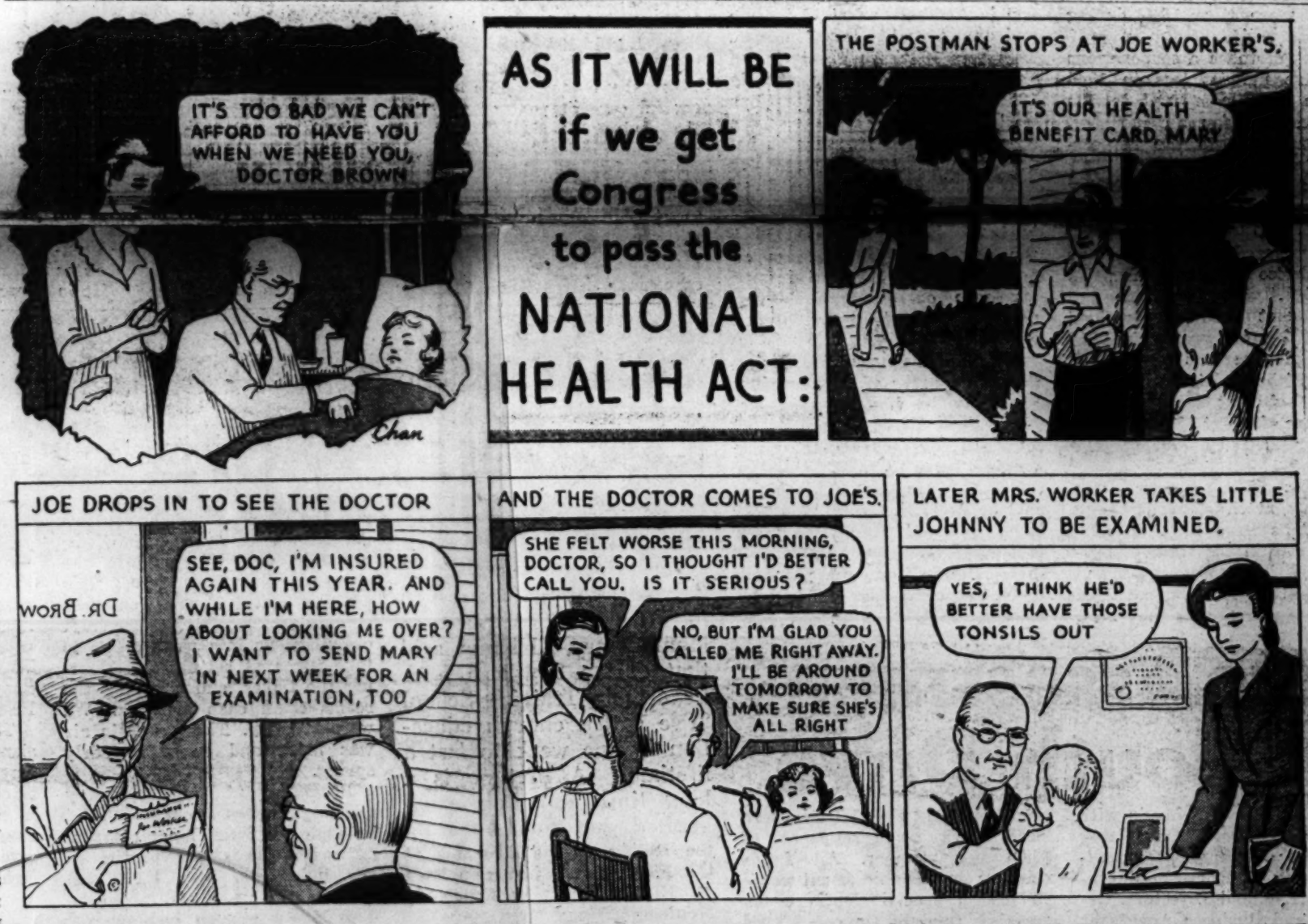
Local 87 chalked up another victory in the Baltimore canneries with the signing of a contract at the Gibbs Co. The new contract, covering two Gibbs plants, Gibbs and Booth's, followed the recent signing of a contract at the Lord Mott cannery.

Wage gains included a 12½c an hour increase in women's basic rates and 11c for men; plus additional increases of one-half cent for each additional five cents an hour earned. Thus, men making 60c an hour received increases bringing their wages up to 71½c; and from 65c to 77c an hour, etc. Piece rates for tomato skinners were raised from 12c to 14c per bucket.

Other gains include elimination of the attendance bonus which cut down hourly earnings; a no discrimination clause; and two hours call-in pay. Vacations were set at one week with pay for 1750 hours worked in the year and two weeks for five years.

Machinery for grievance procedure was set up and a seniority system established providing the opportunity for seasonal workers to be promoted to the status of regular employees. Stewards and union officers get top seniority as well as leave of absence for union business or functions. Special provision was made for returned veterans, giving them total seniority and the status of regular employees.

There's no question in the workers' minds that the strategy of concentrating on Lord Mott's first paid off in the victory at Gibbs. As a result of local's success, other canneries in the surrounding area have "voluntarily" granted 10c an hour increases in an effort to forestall FTA.


IT'S TOO BAD WE CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE YOU WHEN WE NEED YOU, DOCTOR BROWN
Chan
AS IT WILL BE if we get Congress to pass the NATIONAL HEALTH ACT:
THE POSTMAN STOPS AT JOE WORKER'S.
IT'S OUR HEALTH BENEFIT CARD, MARY
JOE DROPS IN TO SEE THE DOCTOR
SEE, DOC, I'M INSURED AGAIN THIS YEAR. AND WHILE I'M HERE, HOW ABOUT LOOKING ME OVER? I WANT TO SEND MARY IN NEXT WEEK FOR AN EXAMINATION, TOO
DR. BROWN
AND THE DOCTOR COMES TO JOE'S.
SHE FELT WORSE THIS MORNING, DOCTOR, SO I THOUGHT I'D BETTER CALL YOU. IS IT SERIOUS?
NO, BUT I'M GLAD YOU CALLED ME RIGHT AWAY. I'LL BE AROUND TOMORROW TO MAKE SURE SHE'S ALL RIGHT
LATER MRS. WORKER TAKES LITTLE JOHNNY TO BE EXAMINED.
YES, I THINK HE'D BETTER HAVE THOSE TONSILS OUT
AT THE HOSPITAL—
YES, MRS. WORKER, I'LL MAKE A NOTE OF THIS AND JOHNNY CAN GO RIGHT UP TO HIS ROOM
DR BROWN'S SECRETARY SENDS A BILL TO THE INSURANCE FUND
JAS. R. BROWN, M.D
MEDICAL BUILDING
CENTERVILLE U.S.A
Insurance Fund
Federal Bldg
Centerville
To services rendered to Joe Worker and family during month of March
$75.00
HOW LUCKY WE ARE THAT THE DOCTOR AND HOSPITAL BILLS ARE BEING PAID BY THE INSURANCE FUND. THE CONTRIBUTIONS YOU HAVE MADE FROM YOUR PAY CERTAINLY HAVE BEEN WORTHWHILE
UNION NEWS
Economic Outlook, CIO

Vote Raise In Dues

Campbell's Local 194 in Chicago has just voted to increase dues to $2.00 a month, following a jammed meeting here, according to Paul Gardner, business agent of the local.

The extra 50c a month will go to a fund for organizing the unorganized, building up the strike fund and acquiring a new home for the union.